

Members of the Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government:

- DAVID J. MAYS, Chairman, Richmond, Va.
Attorney; Pulitzer Prize winner for historical biography.
- JAMES J. KELPATRICK, First Chairman, Richmond, Va.
Editor, *The Richmond News Leader*; author.
- ALBERT S. HARRISON, JR., Richmond, Va.
Ex-officio member of Commission; Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia.
- E. ALMER AMES, JR., Onancock, Va.
Attorney; member Virginia Senate; Vice-President and Director, First National Bank, Onancock, Va.
- HALE COLLINS, Covington, Va.
Attorney; member Virginia Senate.
- W. C. (DAN) DANIEL, Danville, Va.
Business executive; member Virginia House of Delegates; past National Commander, American Legion.
- JOHN A. K. DONOVAN, Falls Church, Va.
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- J. SUGAR GRAVATT, Blackstone, Va.
Attorney; Trial Justice for Nottoway County, Va.
- FREDERICK T. GRAY, Richmond, Va.
Attorney; former Attorney General of Virginia.
- BURA P. HARRISON, Winchester, Va.
Attorney; former member of the United States Congress.
- EDGAR R. LAFFERTY, JR., King William, Va.
Business executive; farmer.
- GARNETT S. MOORE, Pulaski, Va.
Attorney; member Virginia House of Delegates.
- WILLIAM T. MUSE, Richmond, Va.
Dean, T. C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond; author.
- W. ROY SMITH, Petersburg, Va.
Business executive; member Virginia House of Delegates.
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THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

Travelers Building • Richmond, Virginia

THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

THE Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government was established as of July 1, 1958, by unanimous vote of the Virginia General Assembly.* The Commission consists of fifteen members (plus the Governor, *ex officio*) who serve without compensation for four-year terms. Four of the members come from the Virginia House of Delegates and three from the State Senate; the others serve on appointment by the Governor.

The Commission's duties are chiefly educational. We are charged with assembling and making available to interested persons factual material intended to clarify and to expound the State and Federal relationship. Through our publications, and by other means of communication, we are to call attention to the line that divides the powers reserved to the States and the powers delegated by the Constitution to the central government.

But these educational efforts are not to be exerted merely for academic exercise. We are instructed not only to proclaim these reserved State powers, but also to protect them. We are instructed to keep before the Congress, as best we can, the doctrine of a limited central government, toward the end that individual rights and State powers may be preserved.

To carry out the duties imposed upon it by law, the Commission now is engaged (1962-64) in a number of educational and promotional activities.

•We are assisting the State Department of Education in the development of an expanded course in American constitutional government, required of all students at the twelfth grade level of our public schools.

•Because the Commission is convinced that young people must become vitally aware of the threat offered by communism to America's free institutions, we have undertaken the preparation of supplementary teaching materials, intended to instruct high school students in the nature and aims of the communist system.

*Chapter 226, Acts of 1958.

•In the past quarter century, the relationship between the States and the central government has been profoundly altered by the mushroom growth of "Federal grants in aid." It is important to know precisely how these programs operate, how they affect the finances of the State and its political sub-divisions, and how our people have come to depend on them. At the direction of the Virginia General Assembly, the Commission therefore undertook an exhaustive study of Federal grants in Virginia; and while these findings, published in 1962, have primary application to public administration in Virginia, they provide a valuable case study for all States and localities.

•If the people are to plan intelligently on where they are going, in terms of the State and Federal relationship, it is necessary first to know where they have been. The Commission therefore has undertaken a series of publications dealing with the structure of American constitutional government. These publications, sent to a nationwide mailing list of nearly 28,000 individuals and institutions, in 1963 will be bound in a reference volume to be known as *We the States*.

In addition to these specific and continuing projects, the Commission undertakes through its members an extensive program of speaking engagements at colleges and university forums, and before civic and patriotic groups. We attempt to assist members of the Congress on request, by doing research on programs related to the Commission's responsibilities.

The Commission's work is financed through a State appropriation of \$125,000 a year. Its publications are distributed without charge to educational institutions. A nominal charge is asked for the supply of material in quantity to others who may request it.

To answer a question that frequently is asked: The Virginia Commission on Constitutional Government is *not* concerned with the social aspects of racial separation in the public schools or elsewhere. Our concern with *Brown v. Board of Education* arises wholly from the impact of that decision upon long-established doctrines of constitutional law. Our concern with "sit-

ins" is that at least the same respect be paid the property owner, exercising his right to the peaceful possession of his property, that is paid the demonstrator exercising his right to free speech.

The Commission's interests go beyond matters that may arise out of region or race. Our goal is to do all within our power to promote a restoration of constitutional government throughout the United States. It should be as important to Oregon, or Michigan, or Maine, as it is important to Virginia that the States be left free to exercise their reserved powers *respectively*, as the Constitution commands. Our system of government embraces a dual citizenship: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States *and of the State wherein they reside*." This second citizenship carries with it rights, privileges, and prerogatives that ought never to be obscured; the system makes possible a variety of political experiment, and a healthy difference in laws and institutions, of immense value to the vitality of our Republic.

Our Commission is not in any sense "at war" with the Federal government. The concept of constitutional government we seek to preserve most assuredly demands a strong central government, vested with all necessary and proper powers to act in fields of truly national concern. Our aim is simply that a balance be restored, and that the States be encouraged to insist upon exercising the powers reserved to them. Toward the fulfillment of that purpose, we respectfully solicit the support of like-minded Americans everywhere.

DAVID J. MAYS,
Chairman.